Techno-economic feasibility study in regard to Taldenda has not been conducted.

Development of Vadinar Port

4691. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from Gujarat Government to develop Vadinar port in Gujarat as a general cargo port which was earlier part of the minor port Salaya handed over the Central Government for handling crude oil of IOC by Kandla Port Trust;

(b) if so, what is the proposal of the Government of Gujarat and its present status and whether it is disagreed by the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not agreeing with the legitimate proposal of Government of Gujarat by Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal received from Chief Minister of Gujarat was to develop Vadinar Port as a general dry cargo port for direct berthing. The request has not been acceded to as Vadinar Port is an integral part of the Major port of Kandla.

(c) Since Vadinar Port is an integral part of Kandla Port, no other authority like Gujarat Maritime Board can be legally permitted to carry out any activities within the limits of the Kandla Port Trust. Vadinar has the potential to be developed for multi-purpose use like, general cargo, containers and petroleum products. The development of these facilities at Vadinar Port should be entrusted to Kandla Port Trust only. The Central Govt. has suggested the Govt. of Gujarat, Deptt. of Ports & Fishery may formulate a joint venture company with the Kandla Port Trust and the Gujarat Maritime Board as partners for the development of Vadinar for multi-purpose use.